

# WRITING COMPETITION RULES

## 2008 Utah Arts Council Writing Contest

### INTRODUCTION

For fifty years now, the annual Utah Original Writing Competition has awarded recognition and cash prizes to some of Utah's finest writers. These winners attract the attention of the wider literary world to our state and our literary community. Often these winners go on to win national prizes, acclaim and publication. With funds provided by the Utah State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Utah Arts Council Literature Program has worked to provide the best possible judges for the competition and the largest possible prizes to the winners. In this, its 50<sup>th</sup> year, the Utah Original Writing Competition continues to honor those Utah writers who, through their literary excellence, bring recognition and prestige to our state.

### CATEGORIES

#### **Class A: Novel**

First Prize \$1,000; Second Prize \$750. Minimum length: 60,000 words. Manuscripts need not be bound, but should at least be contained in a box. No part of the novel may have been previously published in book form or accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry.

#### **Class B: General Nonfiction**

First Prize \$1,000; Second Prize \$750. Minimum length: 60,000 words. Manuscripts need not be bound, but should at least be contained in a box. No part of the manuscript may have been previously published in book form or accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry. (Please note: This category rotates every other year. Next year it will be Biography/Autobiography.)

#### **Class C: Book-length Collection of Poems**

First Prize \$1,000; Second Prize \$750. Minimum length: 48 pages. Manuscripts need not be bound, but should at least be contained in a box. No part of the manuscript may have been previously published in book form or accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry. (Please note: This category rotates every other year. Next year it will Book-length Collection of Stories.)

### **Class D: Juvenile Book**

First Prize \$1,000; Second Prize \$750. Fact, fiction or biography, appealing to readers ages 6 through 12. Compilations of stories for young readers will be accepted. Manuscripts need not be bound, but should at least be contained in a box. No part of the novel may have been previously published in book form or accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry. (Please note: This category rotates every other year. Next year it will be Young Adult Book.)

### **Class E: Poetry**

First Prize \$300; Second Prize \$200. A collection of 10 poems for adults, not to exceed 1,000 lines total. Please include a title for this collection. If no title is provided, the judges will use the first line of the first poem. No part of the collection may have been previously published in book form or accepted for book publication at the time of entry.

### **Class F: Short Story**

First Prize \$300; Second Prize \$200. Fiction for adults, not to exceed 7,500 words. No part of the collection may have been previously published in book form or accepted for book publication at the time of entry.

### **Class G: Personal Essay**

First Prize \$300; Second Prize \$200. Nonfiction for adults, not to exceed 7,500 words. No part may have been previously published in book form or accepted for book publication at the time of entry.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**No manuscripts will be returned. Be sure to keep a copy.**

### **RULES**

**\*\*IMPORTANT CHANGE \*\***

**THIS IS NOW A “FIRST BOOK” CONTEST. WINNING AUTHORS IN CATEGORIES A, B, C AND D MUST HAVE NO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED BOOK IN THAT CATEGORY.**

- **Due Date (June 27) is a postmark deadline.** Entries will be accepted at the Arts Council offices between Thursday, May 1 and Friday, June 27. Our office is located at 617 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84102. Our

hours are Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. If you intend to deliver your manuscript personally, it must be received at the Utah Arts Council by 4 pm, Friday June 27, 2008. We cannot accept faxed or emailed entries. Late manuscripts will not be considered.

- **Residency Requirement:** The competition is open to all legal residents of the State or Utah. There is no age restriction.
- **Limits on Entries:** Only one entry per category per contestant is allowed. However, writers are allowed to enter more than one category. Winners of the first or second prize in any category of the 2007 competition are not eligible to enter the class in which they received the 2007 award. In the case of rotating categories, winners of the 2006 competition are not eligible to enter the class in which they received the 2006 award. However, the winners of these classes are eligible to enter the other classes.
- **Dun & Bradstreet Number:** All applicants must apply for and receive a free Dun & Bradstreet Number (DUNS) number. This number is free and important advocacy tool for the arts. **Go to Dun & Bradstreet Number instructions.**
- **Include Card:** Each contestant must include the attached Submission Card, completed and signed. Please include all your entries on one single card. Photocopies of the submission card are acceptable.
- **Previous Publication:** Acknowledgement of previously published work should not be included with your entry.
- **NO RETURNS:** No manuscripts will be returned. Be sure to keep your own copy of each entry. Judges will dispose of all but first and second place winners.
- **Judge's Decisions are Final:** Judges have sole and final authority in evaluation of manuscripts. If, in the opinion of the judge, no manuscript entered in a class is of sufficient quality to merit an award, none will be given. The judges are not identified until after the winners have been announced. Judges' comments will be provided for First Prize and Second Prize only.
- **Winning Manuscripts to Remain on File:** The manuscripts of the first and second place winners in each class must remain with the Utah Arts Council for our permanent collection. In the event a winning entry is later published, the Utah Arts Council would appreciate receiving a published copy of the work.
- **Rights:** Authors of winning entries retain all rights of publication.
- **Disqualification:** Failure to comply with these rules will result in disqualification.

## CALENDAR:

**May 1:** Earliest manuscript acceptance at Utah Arts Council offices.

**June 27:** ENTRIES DUE by 4 pm at Utah Arts Council, 617 E. South Temple, SLC Utah, 84102 (postmark deadline).

**September 19:** Winners contacted. (Please notify us of changes in address.)  
Press notified.

**TBA:** Celebration Readings

**NOTE:** Due to the number of entries, judges will make comments only on first and second place manuscripts.

## CHECKLIST:

**Before Submitting, Please Be Certain You Have Complied With The Following:**

\_\_\_ One completed and signed **submission card** may be used for all entries. Each short entry (Classes E, F & G) should be placed in a manuscript-sized cover folder or envelope.

\_\_\_ Each book-length manuscript (Classes A, B, C & D) should be boxed or bound.

\_\_\_ No author's name or address anywhere on the manuscript(s).

\_\_\_ **OPTIONAL:** For mailed entries, if you wish the Arts Council to acknowledge receipt of your entry, include a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

\_\_\_ **Keep a copy of the manuscript for yourself. Manuscripts are not returned.**

*The Utah Arts Council works to make the arts available to everyone, regardless of special needs or cultural differences, and encourages all who participate in our programs to do the same.*

**Governor of the State of Utah:** Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.

**Department of Community and Culture:** Palmer DePaulis, Executive Director

**Utah Arts Council:**

Margaret Hunt, Executive Director  
Guy Lebeda, Literature Coordinator

**Literary Arts Advisory Panel:**

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